Nuggets of News

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
504 First Avenue
Gold Hill OR 97525
541-855-1182

April, May, June 2003

Newsletter for members and friends of the Gold Hill Historical Society
Established 1986
Meetings are held 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
at the Historical Society Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon (except for August when the Annual Picnic/Potluck is held at noon on the 3rd Sunday).
Museum hours: Thursday through Saturday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Holidays - Admission FREE (Donations accepted.)

www.goldhillhistory.org

Gold Hill Historical Society

The Gold Hill Historical Society celebrated their 17th Birthday on January 18th. The Society was formed in 1986 and has seen many changes over the years. The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers provided live entertainment and Birthday cake and refreshments were served. There were special displays that honored all our past volunteers and showed the history of Gold Hill Historical Society.

Photo by Jayme Neil

The Oregon Old Time Fiddlers playing a tune.

Photo by Jayme Neil

Member, Barbara Finnie and Web Designer, Chris Jones, stepin' to the music of the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers.

Photo by Jayme Neil

Janet Sessions (Gold Hill Historical Society Secretary and Charter Member) cutting the Birthday cake.

Photo by Jayme Neil

Charter Members, Mary Bradish, who dressed for the occasion in a green dress and Alyce Bottleson (in white sweater), enjoy the music with other visitors.

Gold Hill Historical Society is now on-line

Gold Hill Historical Society is now on-line thanks to the donation from a special anonymous donor and a local web designer. Chris Jones, owner of Matrix Web Design, donated a very informative site to the museum. Our anonymous donor paid for the domain name, the hosting of the site and updates from Matrix Web Design for one year. The site features information about Gold Hill history, how Gold Hill Historical Society came to be, our resources, exhibits, events and programs. The site also features our gift shop where you can purchase photo reproductions, books, a T- shirt or commemorative coins. We encourage all our members to visit our site regularly for a current calendar of events and *Photo of the Month* featuring one of our historic photos on sale at 50% off.

The site also has a special "on-line" membership for those who are interested. The new "On-Line Gold Membership" will cost $12 a year. If you are already a member you may upgrade your membership for $6. This new "On-line Gold Membership" includes special VIP access to a unique part of our site that includes monthly articles on Gold Hill history, samples of historic newspaper clippings from our *Gold Hill News* Collection, our newsletter on-line and special discounts and monthly promotions.

Please visit our new site at:

www.goldhillhistory.org

If you would like more information about our website please call us at 855-1182 or email us at:

goldhillhs@aol.com

If you would like to contact our web designer, call 541-840-2264 or visit his website at:

www.oregonmatrix.com

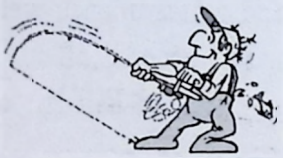
Interesting Historical Facts

- In 1801, 20 percent of the people in the U.S. were slaves.
- After the U.S Civil War, about 33%-50% of all U.S. paper currency in circulation was counterfeit.
- Before the 1800's there were no separately designed shoes for right and left feet.
- During the Gold Rush in 1849, some people paid as much as $100 for a simple glass of water.
- The eight-dollar bill was designed and printed by Benjamin Franklin for the American Colonies.

Information courtesy of www.amusingfacts.com

"That's Fishy"
A Fishing Story Contest

Gold Hill Historical Society presents it's first annual "That's Fishy", a fishing story contest. This contest is open to anyone with a story to tell about fishing, true or not! Please limit your story to 600 words. You may include photographs with your story as well. The winning story will be published in our next newsletter and the winner will receive a free T-shirt! Please mail your entries to:



Gold Hill Historical Society
Attn: Fishing story contest
PO Box 26
Gold Hill Oregon 97525

Entry's must be received by June 5, 2003. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like your story or photos returned.

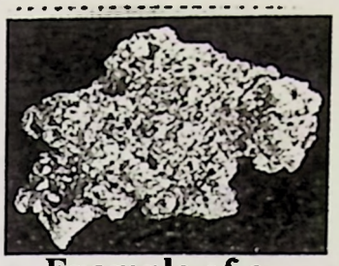
How Town of Gold Hill Got Its Name

All that remains to mark the place of one of the richest pocket discoveries of gold ever made on the Pacific Coast is a shallow depression about 25 feet in diameter, near the summit and on the north slope of "Gold Hill" — a mountain just across Rogue River, east of the city of Gold Hill. This famous pocket yielded an enormous amount of the precious metal within a few months after its discovery. An accurate record of the gold taken out was not kept and is known only by conjecture bu told-timers say that it must have been several hundred thousand dollars — some placing it as high as half a million. One of the original owners of the pocket , at one time lived at Trail in the person of John X. Miller, a veteran of the early Indian wars.

The following account of the discovery of the great pocket is taken from the first issue of the *Gold Hill Miner,* a paper printed by T. K. Roberts and dated May 3, 1895:

"In February 1859, a youth, while engaged in hunting for horses for the man Thomas Chavner, picked up a piece of quartz from the Gold Hill pocket, which upon examination proved to be wired together with gold. In casting about every piece proved to be rich. The youth proceeded to Chavner's and made known to him his find.

Chavner's quick eye and his toady practical horse sense suggested to him to make a dicker with the youth. A bargain was soon made, and Thomas Chavner was one of the principal owners in what proved to be one of the richest pocket possessions on the Pacific Coast.



Example of a Gold Nugget

Notwithstanding Chavner's circumspection and secretiveness, the news reached Jacksonville during the night or evening of the discovery.

The next morning the road between Jacksonville and Gold Hill was lined with excited prospectors. Among the number was George Ish, who in passing Willow Springs, where at that time old Uncle Dan Fisher was carrying on a blacksmith shop, made known to Fisher the discovery of the evening before. Fisher briefly related to Ish his discovery of a quartz ledge on evening in 1852 and directed and found the ledge as Fisher had described it. Although Ish had promised in the case the discovery was as Uncle Fisher had pointed out that he, Fisher, should have an interest in the find, he did not, however, keep his word with the old man.

At this time Jacksonville was the metropolis of southern Oregon, and was one of the most prosperous mining towns on the Pacific Coast

Gold Hill was a great producer. Nearly a half million dollars (in gold) was taken from the mine in a few months. Parties are operating on a lower level at present, and one of those bright mornings the intelligence will flash over the wires that Gold Hill is paying richer that ever."

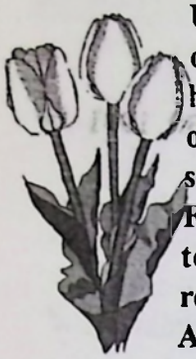
Medford Mail Tribune June 9 1910

"EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE INVENTED HAS BEEN INVENTED."

- CHARLES H. DUELL,

COMMISSIONER, U.S. OFFICE OF PATENTS, 1899

The history of April Fool's Day



Unlike most of the other nonfoolish holidays, the history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is not totally clear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it sort of evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families. In Scotland, for example, April Fool's Day is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior region of the body. It is called Taily Day. The origin of the "kick me" sign can be traced to this observance.

Mexico's counterpart of April Fool's Day is actually observed on December 28. Originally, the day was a sad remembrance of the slaughter of the innocent children by King Herod. It eventually evolved into a lighter commemoration involving pranks and trickery. Pranks performed on April Fool's Day range from the simple (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied!), to the elaborate. Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!" Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool's Day.

Sometimes, elaborate practical jokes are played on friends or relatives that last the entire day. The news media even gets involved. For instance, a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees.

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!

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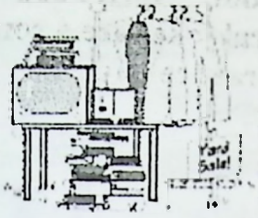
Also available on the Web at www.wilstar.com

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

- American humorist
Mark Twain

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMUNITY YARD SALE



Gold Hill Historical Society is holding a community yard sale on June 21 2003, starting at 9 am. We are asking that the community donate items to be sold at this event. You may drop off items for this sale at the museum during open hours. All items not sold will be donated to charity. The money raised at this sale will go to support the Gold Hill Historical Society.

IN THE NEWS

Vol. 4.--203, March 30, 1901

A dispatch from Ashland dated March 6th states that Wesley Dollarhide who is well known in Southern Oregon was shot and killed by deputy Sheriff Geo. Norris. The details of the affair are as follows:

Jack Norris, a brother of the deputy sheriff, had been drinking with Dollarhide when a dispute arose followed by a fight. The deputy sheriff appeared on the scene, Dollarhide attacked both brothers with a knife and in self protection Geo. Norris shot and killed Dollarhide. Jack Norris was stabbed twice but his wounds are not thought to be serious.

--Gold Hill News 1892-1910

Gold Hill Historical Society
Membership/Renewal/Volunteer Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

☐ Family Membership $6.00 per year
New membership,. Welcome!

☐ Family Membership $6.00 per year
Renewal. Thank you!

☐ Contribution

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer

Return form to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
504 First Avenue
Gold Hill OR 97525

PIONEER RECIPES

Pioneers kept a few items on hand for cooking such as corn or cornmeal, wheat or flour, salt, sugar, coffee, molasses, honey, beans, bacon, potatoes, dried meat, dried fruit, milk and eggs.

Corn was an important staple to the early pioneers and settlers. There were many different ways the corn could be used and corn in many ways was a means of survival. The pioneers were able make such things as corn chowder, corn bread and Johnny Cakes. Try making this old pioneer recipe yourself, you might find you like it!

Johnny Cake

- 2 eggs,beaten
- 1/2 C. flour
- 2 C. buttermilk
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 T. molasses or honey
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 C.cornmeal
- 2 T. butter

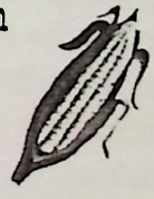
Beat eggs until light. Add buttermilk, molasses or honey. Combine dry ingredients and stir into batter along with butter. Pour into buttered dripper pan and bake at 425 degrees for about 20 minutes or until done. Cut into large squares. About 24 pieces.

Often times when supplies were low, pioneers had to be inventive in preparing food. Here is a recipe for hoecake. They used to cook these cakes on a hoe over an open fire. Sounds really fun! Try it!

Hoecake

- 1 C. white cornmeal
- 1 T. lard, melted
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- boiling water

Mix cornmeal and salt. Add lard and boiling water to make a dough heavy enough to hold a shape. Form into two thin oblong cakes and place in a heavy, hot well-greased pan or hoe/griddle. Bake at 375 degrees about 25 minutes or if cooked on hoe/griddle cook slowly on both sides making sure hoe/griddle is well greased. Serve hot. Pioneers could not afford to waste anything. This recipe shows how pioneers



(Continued on page 4)

used stale and dry bread to make a tasty dessert. It illustrates the old belief, "Waste not, want not."

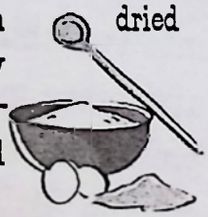
Bread Pudding

- Stale Bread
- Pinch of cinnamon
- Milk
- Spoonful of rose water or lemon brandy
- 3 eggs
- 1 teacupful molasses or sugar
- Pinch of salt
- Raisins

Crumble the bread the night before you want to serve it in the morning and soak overnight in milk. In the morning, beat the eggs with the bread and add salt. Tie it up in a bag, or in a pan that will exclude every drop of water. Boil it about an hour or a little more. When tied in a bag, no pudding should be put into the pot till the water boils.

Snickerdoodles

Very few people realize these still-popular cookies date as far back as the Civil War. At that time, snickerdoodles were often made with dried currants or raisins included. Try making them with a 50/50 mixture of all-purpose white flour and whole wheat flour. The taste difference is not dramatic but very good. It is approximately the same as these cookies would have tasted to the Civil War soldiers who received them in a box from home. Although there is no baking powder in these cookies (it was not yet widely available in the 1860's, but the cream of tartar and saleratus was an approximate substitute), they will puff up at first and then flatten out with crinkled tops.



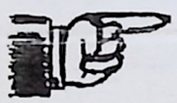
Snickerdoodles

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tea-cupfuls sugar
- 2 teaspoonfuls cream of tartar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoonfuls seleratus (baking soda)
- 2 teaspoonfuls sugar
- 1 teaspoonful salt
- 2 teaspoonfuls cinnamon
- 1 cup butter

Cream butter, gradually adding sugar and then eggs. Sift dry ingredients together. Gradually beat into creamed mixture. Chill dough. Form into balls the size of small walnuts. Roll in a mixture of 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon. Place on a tin sheet (non-greased) and bake in a hot oven (about 400 degrees) until lightly browned but still soft (about 10 minutes). Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

Information courtesy of the North Collins Historical Society and the following websites:

www.buffnet.net/~macdowel/cross/recipes.htm
www.beavton.k12.or.us/greenway/leahy/ot/guidebook/food.
http://k12.albemarle.org/murrayelem/white/Frontier/oregon.html
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/3794/pioneer2.html



Old Time Kitchen Terms

Check out these interesting kitchen terms that were used by the pioneers:

Blickey: A small tin container as used for canned goods.

2 gills: 1 coffee cup

Dip Toast: Toast over which milk, cream, or drawn butter has been poured.

Confederate Beef: Mule meat

Cook-all: Iron skillet used for cooking and baking.

Cree: To boil any variety of grains into a porridge.

Prairie Turnip: The prairie potato. Often dried and pounded then made into gruel. yum yum

Ringtum Ditty: Cheese cooked with bacon onions, tomatoes, corn, and other ingredients.

Gold Hill Historical Soceity Welcomes Our New Volunteer

Misty Thorsgard

Misty graduated from Southern Oregon University with a BS in History and is currently working on her BS in Anthropology. Misty hopes to go on to graduate school where she would like to focus on Anthropology and Native American Studies. While volunteering for Gold Hill Historical Society, Misty hopes to gain more knowledge and experience in exhibit and program conceptualization and development. Misty's hobbies include horseback riding. She is also an active member of The Society for Creative Anachronism (an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating pre-17th-century European history) and NASU (Native American Student Union).

Test your knowledge! Can you name when and where this photo was taken?

This photo was taken along 4th Avenue in Gold Hill in 1910.
GHHS 87.1.86

A Brief History of The Easter Bunny & The Easter Egg

The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit.

The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the Civil War. In fact, Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.

The Easter Egg

As with the Easter Bunny and the holiday itself, the Easter Egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated by Christians.

From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers. Today, children hunt colored eggs and place them in Easter baskets along with the modern version of real Easter eggs — those made of plastic or chocolate candy.

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Coordinator
Jayme Neil

Board of Directors
President: Marge Martin
Vice President: Lyn Parker
Secretary: Janet Sessions
Treasurer: Maureen Smith
Ted Wharton, Cindy Fabion-Tilley, and Clare Moore

GHHS Calendar

April 6 Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Ahead!

April 20 Easter

April 22 Earth Day

April 16 Monthly Meeting at 6:30

May Visit the museum during the month of may for two special displays. The first exhibit will be local Native American Baskets and artifacts and the second will be an exhibit of Military artifacts and flags.

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

May 3 Brent Florendo will present Native American Story Telling from Noon to 2 at the museum. This is a free event and refreshments will be served. This event is for all ages!

May 11 Mother's Day

May17 Armed Forces Day

May 21 Monthly Meeting at 6:30

May 26 Memorial Day. Visit the museum during the month of May to see our exhibit in honor of Memorial Day.

June 18 Monthly Meeting at 6:30

June 14 Flag Day

June 15 Father's Day

June 21 Today is the first day of summer and the Gold Hill Historical Society's Community Yard Sale. Sale starts at 9 AM. No early birds please.

Gold Hill Historical Society
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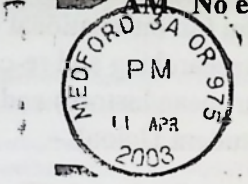

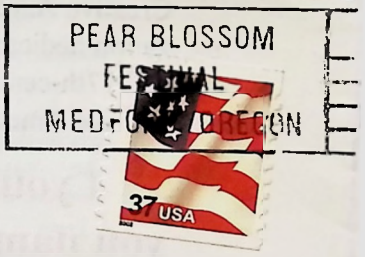

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